

In re Patent Application of
Daniel J. Deutsch, et al.
Serial No. 09/756,458
Filed January 9, 2001

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the vehicle wheel 30 is moving in a rotational motion. Those skilled in the art will know how to construct a mechanism as shown in FIGS. 4 and 6, comprising a biasing member, preferably a spring, calibrated to respond to an applied force so as to close an electrical contact and energize the light source 16. An embodiment of the switch 18' shown in FIGS. 4 and 6 includes a first biasing member 20, a second biasing member 22, a switch contact 24', and a circuit board 26 having an integrated circuit 28. When the wheel light 10' is connected to an air valve stem, the applied force will be a centrifugal force generated when the wheel 30 rotates. This force will act on the wheel light 10' in a downward direction, the lower end of the wheel light being at that end of the housing 12' comprising the connector for the air valve stem, preferably threads 15 as shown in FIG. 7. The force moves the power source 14 toward the lower end of the housing, thereby also moving the biasing member to touch switch contact 24' to thereby close the electrical circuit and energize the light source.

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following amended Claims as set forth below. An attachment hereto is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW AMENDMENTS MADE" and includes a marked-up version of the amended specification and claims, showing the changes made by the current amendment.

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1. A motion activated light for a vehicle wheel having an air valve stem, said light comprising:

a connector complementary to the air valve stem for connecting said light thereto;
a power source connected in an electrical circuit;
a light source connected to said power source through the electrical circuit; and
a switch connected to the electrical circuit, said switch responsive to movement of the wheel to thereby energize the light source.

16. A motion activated light for a vehicle wheel having an air valve with a threaded stem, said light comprising:

a housing having threads complementary to the threaded stem for connecting said light to the air valve stem;
a power source connected to an electrical circuit;
a light emitting diode connected to the electrical circuit; and
a switch connected to close the electrical circuit responsive to movement of the wheel so as to energize the light emitting diode.

16. A lighted wheel for a vehicle, comprising:

a pneumatic tire comprising an air valve having a stem; and
a motion activated light connected to the air valve stem;
wherein the motion activated light comprises an electrical circuit having a power source, a light source, and a switch sensitive to motion of the wheel and connected to close the circuit to thereby energize the light source responsive to motion of the wheel.

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24. A method of lighting a vehicle wheel having an air valve stem, the method comprising:
connecting a light source to the air valve stem of the wheel, said light source
activated by sufficient wheel motion; and
emitting light by causing the wheel to move sufficiently to activate the light
source.

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28. A method of forming a visually perceptible light image adjacent a rotating wheel on a
moving vehicle, the wheel having an air valve stem, comprising:
connecting a light to the air valve stem of the wheel, the light capable of being
activated by sufficient wheel rotation and comprising a predetermined shape for
forming the light image; and
causing the vehicle to move so as to impart sufficient rotation to the wheel to
activate the light source to emit light, thereby forming the visually perceptible light
image.

REMARKS

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's initial determination that Claims 14, 15,
22 and 23 include allowable matter. These remarks are offered in support of the patentability
of the remaining claims in view of the cited art to Duke (US 6,070,997), and also address the
remaining concerns expressed by the Examiner.

The Specification Has Been Corrected, and Avoids Drawing Corrections

Applicants have checked the specification for grammatical, idiomatic, and spelling and
other minor errors, as suggested by the Examiner. The "spell check" and "grammatical check"